



Beginner S1

Wrong Number in China

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Traditional Chinese

喂？喂？搵邊個啊？
叫外賣。
打錯啊。

Jyutping

Wai2 ? Wai2 ? Wan2 bin1 go3 aa3?
Giu3 ngoi6 maai6.
Daa2 co3 aa3.

English

A Hello? Hello? Who are you looking for?
B I want take-out.
A Wrong number.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
搵	wan2	to look for
邊個	bin1 go3	who
叫	giu3	to be called; call
外賣	ngoi6 maai6	take-out
打	daa2	to dial
錯	co3	wrong

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我要搵你哋經理。	Ngo5 jiu3 wan2 nei5 dei2 ging1 lei5.	I'm looking for your manager.
你係邊個？	nei5 hai6 bin1 go3?	Who are you?
我要叫外賣。	Ngo5 jiu3 giu3 ngoi6 maai6.	I am calling for take-out.
我叫Nicole。	ngo5 giu3 Nicole.	I'm (called) Nicole.
你叫咩名？	nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?	What's your name?

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我叫錯外賣！
我要打個電話。
打俾我。
我買錯書！

Ngo5 giu3 co3 ngoi6 maai6 ! I've got the wrong take-out!
Ngo5 jiu3 daa2 go3 din6 waa2. I need to make a call.
daa2 bei2 ngo5. Call me.
Ngo5 maai5 co3 syu1! I bought the wrong book!

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is on Calling for Food or Help

叫外賣。

"Call for take out."

In this lesson's grammar point, we want to spend a bit of time reviewing how to call for things in Cantonese. We do this using the verb 叫 (giu3) which means both "to call for" as well as "to shout." And this is not the first time we have seen this verb. Previously we ran into it in our absolute beginner series when we learned that 叫 (giu3) can be followed by a name and suggest the sense of "to be called..." as in the sentence 我叫劉德華 Ng5 giu3 lau4 dak1 waa4 ("I'm called Andy Lau").

But 叫 is not just used for personal names. As we see in this lesson, we can follow it by all sorts of objects that people routinely call for, such as:

1. 叫的士
giu3 dik1 si2
"to call for a taxi"
2. 叫外賣
giu3 ngoi6 maai6
"to call for takeout"
3. 叫醫生
giu3 ji1 saang1
"to call for a doctor"
4. 叫白車
giu3 baak6 ce1
"to call for an ambulance"
5. 叫救命
giu3 gau3 meng6
"to call for help"

On a final note, pay attention to the lack of a preposition in these Cantonese phrases. In English we have to explicitly add the word "for" in these sentences. This is not needed in

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Cantonese where the verb implies the necessary sense of direction and purpose.

Cultural Insight

What to do in an Emergency

Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world when it comes to safety from personal assault. In the unlikely event that you run into trouble, the thing to shout is 搶嘢啊 ceong2 je5 aa3 ("robbery"), 救命啊 gau3 meng6 aa3 ("help") or 報警啊 bou3 ging2 aa3 ("call the police"). And don't forget that the emergency number here is 999.